

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
ASHBY, Mark P., et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Application No.: Unassigned ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Filed: On Even Date Herewith )  
For: IMPROVED GUIDEWIRE )

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,080,706, issued on March 28, 1978, to Heilman, et al.
2. U.S. Patent No. 4,619,274, issued on October 28, 1986, to Morrison.
3. U.S. Patent No. 4,721,117, issued on January 26, 1988, to Mar, et al.
4. U.S. Patent No. 4,811,743, issued on March 14, 1989, to Stevens.
5. U.S. Patent No. 4,832,047, issued on May 23, 1989, to Sepetka, et al.
6. U.S. Patent No. 5,001,825, issued on March 26, 1991, to Halpern.

The documents are being submitted within 3 months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or certification is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

By citing the above references, Applicants do not acquiesce or admit that any of these documents are "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. Applicants specifically reserve the right, where

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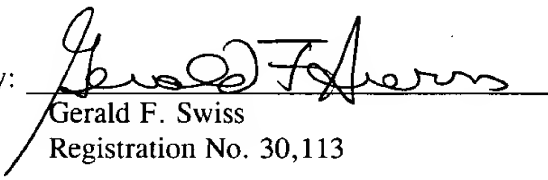
appropriate, to antedate any of the cited documents by an appropriate showing under 37 C.F.R.  
§1.131, §1.604, §1.608 or any other suitable means.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is  
respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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